

MINUTES
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2013
Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Ferrigno, Hirschorn, McGuire, Thompson
Staff Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Hart. As there was no quorum, no actions were taken

Approval of Minutes

- December 20, 2012 – No action taken due to lack of quorum

Public Comment

- No public comment was received

New Business

The presentation from the UConn Office of Economic Development was moved up on the agenda. Mary Holz-Clause, Vice President for Economic Development, provided an overview of the new UConn Technology Park, including industry focus and the relationship to the University's ongoing research efforts. Mary Anne Rook, Director of the Technology Incubation Program (TIP), updated the Commission on the TIP, with a focus on participants at the Storrs campus. One of the key issues noted with regard to retaining graduating incubator businesses in Mansfield is the lack of properties zoned for these uses.

Staff Reports

- **Business Activity.** Hart and Painter updated the Commission on new businesses (either open or anticipated) including the opening of Dog Lane Café in December and projected openings for Geno's Grille, Michael's Arts and Crafts, and Cumberland Farms. Painter noted that the Husky Grab and Go store at University Plaza is for sale on Craig's List and that Mansfield's Restaurant in Mansfield Center had closed and is expected to be replaced with an Indian restaurant. Thompson noted that Jack Rabbit's had also closed.
- **Events.** There were no events to report
- **Chamber of Commerce/MBPA Association.** The next meeting of the Mansfield Business and Professional Association will be on Tuesday, January 29th at 9:00 am at the Mansfield Community Center.
- **Other.** Hart noted that Pat Bresnahan has arranged a meeting with the Chair of the Windham EDC. He is hoping to convene a regional meeting of EDC representatives in the near future.

Old Business

1. **Water Supply EIE.** Hart updated the Commission on the status of the EIE, including the extension of the public comment period to January 31, 2013 and remarks that he presented at a second public hearing in Farmington on January 22, 2013.
2. **Mansfield Tomorrow.** Painter reminded members of the Community Kick-Off Event scheduled for Wednesday, January 30th and the Growing Farms in Mansfield forum on Saturday, February 2nd. Thompson indicated that he would be attending the farming forum. McGuire volunteered to represent the Commission on the Advisory Group for the project. Painter also noted that the Commission would serve as the base for the Economic Development focus group; additional people would be added to complete the focus group.

Due to time constraints, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Painter, AICP
Director of Planning and Development